REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALT DEPARTMENT

IN

ORISSA

DURING THE YEAR

1935-1936

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No. $\frac{975}{\text{XXIX—11 of 36-37}}$ Ex.

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER, ORISSA.

FROM

R. P. WARD, Esq., I.C.S.,

OFFG. REVENUE COMMISSIONER, ORISSA,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA,

LAW AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Dated Cuttack, the 12th August 1936.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the administration of the Salt Department in the old province of Bihar and Orissa during the year 1935-36. As the report is mainly concerned with districts now in this province, it was decided that it should be prepared by me. The administration of the department was under the control of the Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Bihar and Orissa, whose function as Commissioner of Salt was, as usual, confined to preventive operations in the three saliferious districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri only.

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

2. *Charge of the Department and inspection by the Commissioner.*—Rai Bahadur Brajanandan Singh acted as Commissioner of Salt from the beginning of the year till the forenoon of the 1st November 1935 when Mr. N. F. Peck, C.B.E., I.C.S., resumed charge of the department on return from leave. Mr. Peck remained in charge for the rest of the year. The district of Balasore and Puri were visited by the officiating Commissioner Rai Bahadur Brajanandan Singh and the district of Cuttack by Mr. Peck.

3. *Salt law.*—The Indian Salt Act XII of 1882 continued to be the salt law in force during the year.

4. *Rate of duty.*—There was no change in the rate of duty during the year. The duty on foreign salt including the surcharge and an additional import duty of Re. 0-2-6 continued to be Rs. 1-11-6 per maund, and that on Indian salt Rs. 1-9-0 per maund including the surcharge of Re. 0-5-0.

5. *Administrative changes.*—No administrative changes of any importance was introduced during the year under report. The concession to people of collecting or making salt in areas adjoining the villages in which they reside, for their domestic consumption or for retail sale under certain specified restrictions, remained in force during this year.

CHAPTER II.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

6. *Number of cases.*—The number of cases reported and detected and of persons sent up for offences against the Salt Act (Act XII of 1882) and the manner in which the cases were dealt with in 1935-36 are shown in Appendix C. In view of the concession granted for the free manufacture and sale of salt there was no prosecution for offences under section 9 of the Salt Act except in one case in the district of Puri.

In the district of Cuttack the concession was taken advantage of as in the previous years by the classes for whom it was expressly granted and no organized attempt was noticed in this district to manufacture salt for purposes of trade in contravention of Government orders. During the year the preventive force however detected 132 cases against 152 in the last year and seized 93 maunds 16 seers of salt manufactured in the Astrang area in Puri district. In one of these cases a boat was confiscated under orders of the Commissioner of Orissa Division and was sold by auction. The salt seized was confiscated and destroyed under order of the Commissioner of Orissa Division except a small quantity, the disposal of which is awaiting orders.

In the district of Balasore the concession granted under orders of Government of India continued to be enjoyed by the poor villagers of the saline area of the district. No evidence of systematic violation of the concession came to notice. As before, petty cases of abuse of the concession both in saline and non-saline areas were dealt with by confiscation only and this simple measure was considered to be a sufficient check against the abuse. The consumption of foreign salt during the year under report was 269,984 maunds against 240,752 maunds in the preceding year and the quantity seized was 123 maunds 25 seers against 2?3 maunds 26 seers 10 chittacks in 1934-35. The decrease in seizure of contraband salt and the increase in consumption indicate that there was no extensive evasion of the terms of the concession granted. All confiscated salt was destroyed with the sanction of the Divisional Commissioner. In the district of Puri the salt preventive staff stationed in the Astrang area, ordinarily consisted of one sub-inspector, one petty officer and four peons. As this staff was found inadequate to cope with the general increase in the number of offences against the salt laws after the Orissa flood in 1933 the Government of Bihar and Orissa sanctioned the increase of the salt preventive force from time to time as required and the staff on duty on the 31st March 1936 consisted of three sub-inspectors, three petty officers, seventeen peons and one assistant sub-inspector of police, who was specially deputed to assist the salt force in house searches under section 18 of the Indian Salt Act XII of 1882. The additional preventive force consisting of two sub-inspectors, three petty officers and fifteen peons was sanctioned on a temporary basis for one year only with effect from February 1936. As a result of the appointment of the temporary staff, check on the abuse of the concession allowed by Government was more effective and 523 seizures of contraband salt were made during the year involving the confiscation of 798 maunds 8½ seers of salt. Two pairs of bullocks, two carts and one dugout were also confiscated and sold. The Board of Revenue, Bihar and Orissa, in its letter no. 25-5/4, dated the 27th April 1935, sanctioned the sale of confiscated salt at a price not below the prescribed rate of duty of Rs. 1-9-0 per maund. During the year 2,947 maunds 32 seers of confiscated contraband salt including seizures in the preceding year were sold at Rs. 1-9-0 per maund.

7. *Seizure of contraband salt.*—The total quantity of contraband salt seized during the year under report in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri for violation of the terms of the concession was 740 maunds and one seer against 4,180 maunds and 19 seers seized in the preceding year.

8. *Result of cases.*—Only one case was instituted in the district of Puri in which two persons were detected carrying salt in a dugout for the purpose of trade. One of the accused was fined Rs. 25 and the other acquitted. A sum of Rs. 19 was distributed to the persons who were found responsible to the successful detection and prosecution of the case.

9. *Deputation of head-constables to accompany patrol parties.*—As usual two police head-constables (now called assistant sub-inspector of police) were deputed in the district of Balasore to assist the salt officers in house searches under section 18 of the Indian Salt Act. Their services were retained from the 1st April 1935 to the 30th June 1935 and from the 25th December 1935 to the 31st March 1936. In the district of Puri one assistant sub-inspector of police was specially deputed to assist the salt force in house searches under section 18 of the same Act.

CHAPTER III.

Prices of salt.

10. *Retail and wholesale prices.*—In Appendix A are given for each district headquarters station in the old province of Bihar and Orissa the average wholesale price per maund in 1935-36 and those for the preceding two years. The average for all the districts was Rs. 2-15-2 per maund in 1935-36 against Rs. 2-14-10 per maund in 1934-35 and Rs. 3 per maund in 1933-34.

Appendix B shows the retail prices of salt in seers (of 80 tolas) in the principal marts of Bihar and Orissa at the close of each quarter of the year 1935-36.

CHAPTER IV.

Receipts.

11. The receipts of the Salt Department have been shown in Appendix D. There was no realization during the year on account of duty on salt and the receipts amounting to Rs. 5,022-15-0 represent the sale-proceeds of contraband salt and miscellaneous income including sale-proceeds of old stores and materials.

CHAPTER V.

Miscellaneous.

12. *Assaults.*—There was no case of assault on the salt staff during the year.

13. *Trade in saltpetre.*—One hundred and seventeen saltpetre factories were licensed in Bihar during the year under report. They were under the Commissioner of the Northern India Salt Revenue.

14. *Future organisation of the salt preventive work.*—As already decided by the Government of India the existing arrangements for the conduct of salt preventive work in Orissa will continue.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. P. WARD,

Offg. Revenue Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the average wholesale prices per maund of salt in the bazars of the headquarters of the districts of the province of Bihar and Orissa.

Divisions and districts.		Average for twelve months.		
		1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.
1		2	3	4
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Patna ...	Patna ...	3 4 5	3 4 6	3 3 7
	Gaya ...	3 4 7	2 15 4	2 12 11
	Shahabad ...	3 2 8	3 0 0	2 15 1
	Average ...	3 3 11	3 1 3	2 15 10
Tirhut ...	Saran ...	3 0 3	2 13 1	2 13 10
	Champaran ...	3 2 3	2 15 3	3 1 10
	Muzaffarpur ...	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0
	Darbhanga ...	3 4 8	3 5 5	3 4 5
	Average ...	3 4 3	3 2 11	3 3 6
Bhagalpur ...	Monghyr ...	3 12 0	3 6 8	3 11 8
	Bhagalpur ...	2 11 0	2 10 5	2 10 3
	Purnea ...	3 2 9	3 3 0	3 10 3
	Santal Parganas ...	2 13 3	2 12 9	2 11 8
	Average ...	3 1 9	3 0 8	3 3 0
Orissa ...	Cuttack ...	2 8 0	2 8 0	2 10 8
	Balasore ...	2 14 5	2 13 3	2 13 4
	Angul ...	2 14 5	2 10 3	2 9 10
	Puri	2 6 9	2 5 9	2 5 8
	Sambalpur ...	3 1 2	3 0 4	2 15 10
	Average ...	2 12 2	2 10 8	2 11 1
Chota Nagpur ...	Hazaribagh ...	2 15 8	2 14 9	2 14 10
	Ranchi ...	2 13 7	2 15 4	2 15 1
	Palamau ...	2 12 5	2 13 0	2 14 5
	Manbhum ...	2 9 10	2 9 8	2 10 1
	Singhbhum ...	2 12 7	2 12 4	2 12 9
	Average ...	2 12 10	2 13 0	2 10 3
Average of all districts ...		3 0 0	2 14 10	2 15 2

APPENDIX B.

Statement showing the retail prices of salt in seers (of 80 tolas) in the principal marts of Bihar and Orissa of the close of each quarter.

District.	Name of mart.	Retail prices of salt per rupee. On 30th June 1935.	On 30th September 1935.	On 31st December 1935.	On 31st March 1936.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Srs. Chs.	Srs. Chs.	Srs. Chs.	Srs. Chs.
Patna ...	Sadr	12 0	12 8	11 6	11 0
	Bihar	11 0	11 0	10 0	12 0
Gaya ..	Sadr	14 0	13 0	15 0	14 0
	Aurangabad	14 0	14 4	14 0	13 0
Shahabad	Sadr	13 8	13 8	13 8	13 0
	Buxar	12 0	12 0	12 0	13 0
Saran ..	Sadr	13 0	14 0	14 0	13 0
	Siwan	13 8	13 8	13 9	13 8
Champaran	Sadr	23 8	13 0	22 0	23 0
	Bettiah	22 12	12 8	23 0	23 8
Muzaffarpur	Sadr	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0
	Hajipur	13 0	13 0	13 0	12 0
	Sitamarhi	11 0	13 0	10 8	11 0
Darbhanga	Sadr	12 0	12 0	11 0	11 0
	Madhubani	12 0	12 0	12 0	11 8
Monghyr	Sadr	10 0	10 8	10 0	10 0
	Jamui	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Bhagalpur	Sadr	15 0	14 0	15 0	14 0
	Supaul	14 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Purnea	Sadr	19 8	19 8	19 8	22 0
	Kishenganj	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0
Santal Parganas	Sadr	14 0	13 0	14 0	14 0
	Deoghar	14 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Cuttack	Sadr	13 0	14 0	16 0	16 0
	Jajpur	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Balasore	Sadr	14 3	14 0	13 14	14 8
	Bhadrak	14 0	15 0	15 0	15 0
Angul	Sadr	13 10	13 10	13 10	13 10
	Phulbani	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Puri ..	Sadr	15 12	17 1	15 12	17 1
	Khurda	16 0	17 0	17 0	17 0
Sambalpur	Sadr	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6
	Bargarh	10 2	10 2	10 2	9 8
Hazaribagh	Sadr	13 8	14 0	14 0	13 0
	Giridhi	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Ranchi ..	Sadr	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Palamau ..	Daltonganj	24 0	10 0	24 4	24 4
Manbhum	Sadr (Purulia)	26 0	13 0	26 0	26 0
Singhbhum	Chaibassa	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0

APPENDIX C.

Statement showing the number of cases and persons reported for offences against the Salt Law (Act XII of 1882) and the manner in which the cases were disposed of during the year 1935-36.

District.	Undetected cases, scrapings and unsuccessful house searches. Pending on the 31st March 1935.	Reported during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Pending at the close of the year.	Detected cases. Pending on the 31st March 1935.		Reported during the year.		Total.		Total released after warning.		Sent for trial.		Total disposed of.		Pending on the 31st March 1936.		Number of persons convicted.	Number of persons acquitted.	Total fines imposed.	Amount of fines and forfeitures realised.	Amount disbursed to informers and apprehenders.
1	2	3	4	5	6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13	14	15	16	17
					Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.					
																					Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cuttack ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Balasore ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puri ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	2	..	..	1	2	1	2	..	..	1	1	25	25 0 0	19 0 0
Total for 1935-36..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	2	..	..	1	2	1	2	..	..	1	1	25	25 0 0	19 0 0
Total for 1934-35..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	2	..	..	1	2	1	2	..	..	1	1	50	3 0 0	..

APPENDIX D.

Statement showing the receipts of the Salt Department.

	1934-35	1935-36
1	2	3
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
III—SALT.		
MISCELLANEOUS—		
Overtime fees	..	..
Miscellaneous	678 15 0	5,015 4 0
Sale-proceeds of old stores and materials ..	37 2 0	7 11 0
Total ..	716 1 0	5,022 15 0

OGP (RC) 11—101—19-2-1937.